

Washington, D.C. - The Department of Justice today awarded a \$3 million grant to the city of Salinas to improve communications and data sharing. The grant program is run by the Community Oriented Policing Services office, known as COPS.

"Community policing is a vital strategy in the war on crime and gang violence in our neighborhoods," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "Community policing builds on traditional law enforcement work through crime-prevention efforts, problem-solving and community engagement. These funds will help support the great work our law enforcement officers are already doing to keep us safe."

Funds will be used for technology focusing on data sharing and enhancement of communications interoperability between regional, state and federal partners. The COPS office awarded \$159 million in grants this year under its COPS Technology Program. Grants were awarded to 37 law enforcement agencies in 25 states and one U.S. territory. The Salinas grant was for \$2,989,125.

COPS is a federal agency responsible for advancing community policing nationwide and supporting state and local law enforcement agencies. Since 1995, COPS has invested \$12.4 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state and local law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring of more than 117,000 officers and provide resources including publications, training, technical assistance, conferences and Web casts.

More information about the grant program can be found at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov> .

# # #